

Re: Clarification request

From: "Lametti, David - Personal" </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=10e30f2a9c0e4676a2c13a225a5d5786-lametti, da">
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Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2022 22:40:38 +0000

Thanks. Looks good.

Gurney won't care about the way in which the transcript actually reads!

DL

Hon. David Lametti
(il | he/him)
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From: Aubertin, Chantalle <Chantalle.Aubertin@justice.gc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 5:24:41 PM
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Subject: FW: Clarification request

Hi Minister,

There is a part of your interview with Evan that is currently circulating twitter (so far unaltered) with click-bait-style captions saying that “people who've donated to a pro-Tump cause — any pro-Trump cause — could face legal/fincial consequences”. Matt Gurney has seen this being circulated and has asked for clarification.

In addition to the interview transcript, we propose to send a concise statement that will be attributable to you for your review. Reviewed by Dave and BJ.

“We always ask our police forces as well as our prosecutors to act reasonably, where they're going to work with the banks to ensure that they act reasonably. Obviously there are going to be judgment calls that will be made and serious contributors will be treated more seriously. But, as always, we're

going to leave it to law enforcement to work with the banks, as they already do in other areas that already exist. Such as in anti-terrorism financing and in other areas through FINTRAC.”

Interview transcript:

Evan: Okay, but let me throw out – I get that but again the question is do you need the emergencies acts to do it? You could already deputize RCMP officers or swear them in to help out. There’s – and in terms of tracking the money, let me go there. The government has authorized financial institution was to the power to freeze accounts, suspect offered being involved in the illegal blockades with no court order and no liability. This is a big thing. First of all, you could have done that through legislation, you didn’t need emergency powers, but how exactly will you tell people that under the emergencies act who will determine what the recourse is for someone who may have their bank account frozen, wrongfully? They miss a mortgage payment? What’s their recourse, what’s the transparency? Who decides if someone – can you also answer this if I may, if someone gave a hundred bucks to support the truckers, now deemed illegally, could they legally have their accounts frozen? Are they susceptible to that?

David Lametti (Minister of Justice): Well, we rely as always, Evan, on the – the reasonableness of investigators, the RCMP, fintrac, working with – working with financial institutions. This is a temporary measure for 30 days, and it allows the possibility to happen when we’re going to – we’re going to base ourselves on the reasonableness of this and it will also be, as I have said, the measures that we’ve taken will be subject to full Parliamentary scrutiny. The other thing I would say is that using the emergencies act allows us to enact the measures immediately. Now, yes, legislation is always an option, but how long does legislation take? Particularly in a house where one, the main opposition party, their main goal is just to freight any piece of government legislation of whatever, every whatever type and in which many people in the opposition actually support the...

Evan: But look, sir, I mean, to be fair, to be fair, frustration with the democratic process in a minority government is not necessarily a justification to use the emergencies act. It has to be a crisis. It’s not the frustration of a minority government. That’s not on the table.

David Lametti (Minister of Justice): We believe – we believe, as I have said, that, first of all, this is a crisis, that needs – that needs special attention, that there were gaps, this is one of them. And in order to attack the funding, the foreign funding problem of these – this occupation, there’s the emergencies act allows us to make the declaration immediately and then put the Parliamentary scrutiny afterwards.

Evan: Okay, can you just – would you mind, sir, just answering the question about recourse. If someone illegally or – someone wrongfully has their bank account frozen, all of a sudden they find, hey, I can’t access the bank says well, we’ve deemed that you are a supporter, or that you have been supporting the truckers or an illegal blockade for anything, now that they’ve got the power, are you saying what’s that recourse for that Canadian citizen and are you saying, well, we just have to – the government’s giving these powers to financial institutions and then just lying on the reasonableness of it? That’s the threshold?

David Lametti (Minister of Justice): Evan, we are to do this with respect to financing, already do this with respect to money laundering. What we are doing is extending the same kinds of principles and procedures to this situation which is fundingful illegal blockades. This isn’t – this isn’t new – this isn’t new under the sun, Evan, this is something that the police and financial institutions already do

together in certain cases. We've extended the case and so they already have experience working in this area and therefore when I say we're going to trust their reasonableness, it's based on the experience that we already have.

Evan: Okay, what's the recourse, look, you just compared people to may have donated this to the same people as fund ago terrorist. I want to be clear here, sir, this is really important. A lot of people said I don't like your vaccine mandates and I donated to this. Now it's illegal. K should I be worried that the bank my free my account? What's your answer to is that.

David Lametti (Minister of Justice): I think if you are a member of, you know, of a pro-trump movement who's donating hundreds of thousands of dollars and millions of dollars to this kind of thing, then you ought to be worried.

Evan: What if you are a Canadian citizen who donated 500 bucks to it?

David Lametti (Minister of Justice): Well, I think if you are – if you are – if you are a tractor trailer owner whose employees have taken the truck that has been sitting here in Ottawa for three weeks and perhaps you gave that person permission, you may now actually lose your truck license under this. And I think you ought to be worried in that sense and I think that's a very important tool that we intend to use.

Thanks,

Chantalle

From: Matt Gurney <Irrelevant>

Sent: February 17, 2022 4:06 PM

To: Media Relations / Relations avec les Médias (JUS / JUS) <media@justice.gc.ca>; Aubertin, Chantalle <Chantalle.Aubertin@justice.gc.ca>

Subject: Clarification request

Hey team, I'm sure you know that Minister Lametti's comments on CTV have been clipped and circulated widely on social media. A possible interpretation of his remarks is that people who've donated to a pro-Tump cause — any pro-Trump cause — could face legal/fincial consequences.

I suspect this isn't what the Minister intended to say. Is there a statement that already exists that I can be pointed to? If not, can one be, uh, statemented?

Careful out there. Looks like things are about to get interesting. Be safe.

Best,

MG